



LOVE THAT  
TRANSFORMS US  
— OUR SPIRIT WAITS WORSHIP SERIES —



**First United Methodist Church of Gilbert**

*Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ*

December 24, 2023

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at [gilbertumc.org](https://gilbertumc.org)

Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 | 480-892-9166

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# Welcome!

Service at 9:00 am • See [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org) for streaming information

*\*please stand as you are able*

**Pre-service Music**    *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten & Love Came Down at Christmas”*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor Adriana

**Prelude**

*“He Is Born”*

Wesleyan Bell Choir

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Kotsonas & Whittington Family

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 6 #211*

**\*Call to worship**

Leader:    The night was dark.

**People:    A baby lay in a manger.**

Leader:    The night was still.

**People:    Angels sang to shepherds.**

Leader:    The night was expectant.

**People:    God’s glory shone brightly.**

Leader:    On this day,

**All:        let us rejoice in the gift of love.**

**Opening Hymn**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs 1,2,3*

**#234**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Cathy Panella

Loving God, this is a holy time we are in. We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope. Speak your words of truth and power. May the gift of your love be born anew among us. Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness. Amen.

**Special Music**

*“Away In A Manger”*

Children’s Choir

<b>Children's Message</b>		Janelle
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>"Christmas Fantasia"</i>	Nate Koenig
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>"Antiphonal Noel"</i>	Choir
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Luke 2:1-20	Youth
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>"Shepherds Monologue"</i>	Mark Turner
<b>Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer</b>		Adriana
<b>Special Music</b>	<i>"Mary, Did You Know"</i>	Ernie Broughton & Jo Goslar
<b>Time of Offering</b>	<i>"The First Noel"</i>	
	Israel Mutach, Samantha Mutach, Divina Katching	
<b>*Doxology</b>	<i>"Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow"</i>	<b>#95</b>
	<i>UMC Hymnal #95 Thomas Ken</i>	
<b>*Offering Prayer</b>		Cathy Panella
<p>Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you, knowing that the energy exerted in our giving is tiny compared to what we've expended finding the gifts for our families and friends. You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek in the angel's conversation with Mary: when told that she would give birth to our savior, she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word." May that affirmation of faith and obedience be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.</p>		
<b>*Closing Music</b>	<i>"Angels We Have Heard On High"</i>	Praise Band
<b>*Blessing Postlude</b>	<i>"Angels We Have Heard On High"</i> (Reprise)	





**Office Closed**

**Monday Dec 25**  
**Tuesday Dec 26**  
**In observance of Christmas Day**

*Thank you for joining our services today!*

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez  
 MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Marilyn Harter  
 Liturgist: Cathy Panella Maddy Paap, Maia Chiricuzio, Scott Hanson

## How to Give to First Gilbert



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